

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending.

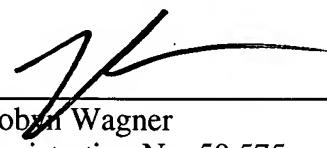
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinney, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,871,191, which the Examiner referred to as Patent No. 6,871,171 in an apparent typographical error on Page 2, but listed as Patent No. 6,871,191 on the Notice of References Cited).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Kinney is unavailable as a reference. An assignment of the present application to Freemarkets, Inc. was recorded on April 24, 2002 at Reel/Frame 012829/0048. An assignment of Kinney to Freemarkets, Inc. was recorded on January 24, 2000, at Reel/Frame 010523/0672. Applicants respectfully request that any rejection based on Kinney be withdrawn. As the Examiner has cited Kinney against all pending claims, all claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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